

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and c) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that if the Applicants desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, a certified English translation of the foreign application must be submitted in reply to this action. Applicants do not intend to declare an interference at this time. However, Applicants express their appreciation to the Examiner for pointing out this issue.

Claims 1 and 3-11 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031658) in view of Hagiwara (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,055). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Comparing the present invention with the inventions of Ozaki et al. and Hagiwara, the feature liquid crystal display device based on the constructions shown in Figs. 7A and 7B is added, and the corresponding description at the specification (paragraph 0035), as drafted in the attached claim amendment.

(1) Claim 1

In amended claim 1, the features of claim 3 have been incorporated. Further, the following features are added:

i) the light guide device is provided with a transparent acrylic resin plate.

ii) the individual illumination device is arranged at side edges of the transparent acrylic resin plate.

The constructions of claim 1 amended as above are not disclosed or suggested in Ozaki et al. and Hagiwara. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Ozaki et al. and Hagiwara.

(2) Claim 7

In amended claim 7, the features of claim 8 have been incorporated. Further, the following features are added:

i) the light guide plate is provided with a transparent acrylic resin plate.
ii) the third illumination devices are arranged at side edges of the transparent acrylic resin plate.

The construction of claim 7 as amended as above is not disclosed or suggested in Ozaki et al. and Hagiwara. It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 7 is patentable over Ozaki et al. and Hagiwara.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claims 1 and 7 as amended and discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art could not combine the features of the applied art to arrive at the claimed invention because the applied art is devoid of all the features of the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Claims 8-11 depend from claim 7 and include all of the features of claim 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 7 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(3) New Claims

Newly-added claims 12-14 also include features not shown in the applied art.

For instance, claim 14 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a game result display device for displaying a game result and a beneficial state generating device for generating a beneficial state advantages for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display device (A). The game result display device includes a first display device and a second display device arranged in front of a display area of the first display device when seen from a front side of the gaming machine, the second display device for displaying by superimposing on the first display device (B). A common illumination device is provided for illuminating the first display device and the second display device in common (C). The common illumination device includes a front illumination device for illuminating the first display device from a front side thereof and a rear illumination device for illuminating the first display device from a rear side thereof (D). The first display device includes a plurality of symbol display parts capable of variably displaying and stopping a single one or plural symbols, each of the plurality of symbol display parts being positioned between the second display device and the common illumination device and having light transmittance (E). The second display device is constructed from a liquid crystal display device including a light guide device arranged over entire surface at a rear side of the liquid crystal panel, an individual illumination device for generating light to be guided to the light guide device and a reflection device for reflecting the light guided to the light guide device toward the liquid crystal panel positioned at a front side of the light guide device (F) and in the reflection device includes a reflection area for reflecting light and a light transmission

area provided in front of each of the plurality of symbol display parts, the light transmission area for transmitting light (G).

Difference between Cited References and New Claim 14

Ozaki et al. turns off the fluorescent lamp in a wait mode where a menu is displayed on the transparent EL panel. This means that Ozaki et al. does not display by superimposing the transparent EL panel on the rotating reel display device. Judging from this, the construction of Ozaki et al. is different from the constituent feature (B) of the present invention. Further, Ozaki et al. fails to disclose the illumination device for illuminating the rotating reel display device from the rear side thereof. In addition, a part of the symbol display parts of the rotating reel display device does not have light transmittance. Thus, Ozaki et al. also does not include the constituent features (D) and (E) of the present invention. Furthermore, since Ozaki et al. does not disclose the construction of the transparent type liquid crystal display device specifically, Ozaki et al. does not include the constituent features (F) and (G) of the present invention.

Advantageous Effect of the Invention of New Claim

First, the invention utilizes the front illumination device so as to illuminate the symbol display part of the first display device and illuminates the liquid crystal panel of the second display device from the rear side thereof. It is possible to secure light amounts for both of the first display device and the second display device.

Accordingly display on the symbol display part of the first display device is made clear, and so is display on the liquid crystal panel of the second display device. It thus becomes possible to display by superimposing an image displayed on the first display device over an image displayed on the second display device.

Second, since the light guide device is arranged over the entire surface at the rear side of the liquid crystal panel, light can be provided with the entire surface of the liquid crystal panel equally. There is no difference in light amounts to be illuminated

for the liquid crystal panel between the area in front of the symbol display part and the area other than the front area of the symbol display part. It thus becomes possible to prevent difference in coloring or definition of image in the liquid crystal panel.

Third, the invention is provided with the reflection device of which symbol display part includes the light transmission area at its front side. Even though a small amount of light leaks out from the light guide plate to the reel side through the light transmission area, it becomes possible to secure sufficient amount of light for providing with the liquid crystal panel, so that an image on the liquid crystal panel can be recognized clearly.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Request for Continued Examination
 Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (two months)

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